

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2 through 18, 40 and 41 are pending in the application. Claim 2, 3, 16, 17, 40, and 41 are independent claims. Claims 4 through 15, and 18 depend from claim 2. Claims 40 and 41 are newly added.

In the Action, claim 8 was objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of the previous claim. In response, applicant amended claim 8 to now comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c). Reconsideration of the objection is requested.

In the Office Action, claims 20 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In the Office Action, claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 12 through 15, 18, 19, 22 through 24, 31 through 34 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 2,278,335 to Stearns (hereinafter "Stearns"). In the Office Action, claims 19 through 27, 31 through 35 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,223,753 to Lo (hereinafter "Lo"). In the Office Action, claims 9 through 11, and 28 through 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stearns. Further, claims 28 through 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lo. Finally, claim 36 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lo in combination with United States Patent No. 5,273,058 to Edwards.

Applicant expresses appreciation that the Office has indicated that claims 2, 3, 6, 7 16 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has so amended claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 16 and 17 and believes that these claims are now in condition for allowance. Claims 4 through 5, 8 through 15, and 18 depend from claim 2 and are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above for claim 2.

New independent claims 40 and 41 are also allowable for reasons similar to those argued above for claim 2.

With the instant amendment, applicant submits an Information Disclosure Statement citing United Kingdom Patent Application GB 2405584 A. Applicant respectfully requests that the Office consider the submitted Information Disclosure Statement.

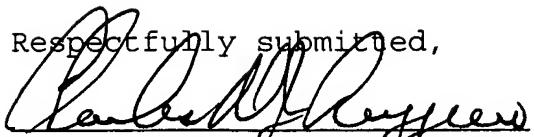
Applicant has cancelled claim 1, and 18 through 38 simply to advance prosecution of this matter and to take the allowable subject matter. By canceling these claims, applicant does not agree with the rejections and fully intends to pursue the scope of the cancelled claims in a future continuation patent application.

It is applicant's belief that claims 2 through 17 and 40 through 41 are all in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and that the application be passed to allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,



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